

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4057

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USNATO BRUSSELS 1691

S E C R E T ATHENS 4296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TK

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS

1. SUMMARY. IN COURSE OF COURTESY CALL OF FORMER SECRETARY OF TREASURY AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO NATO DAVID KENNEDY, AMBASSADOR TZOUNIS, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL GOG VIEWS ON PRESENT DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. SUBJECT WAS INITIATED BY KENNEDY WHO, AFTER RECALLING PERSONAL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE FROM NATO DISCUSSION INTERNAL SITUATION IN GREECE AS DIVISIVE ISSUE INAPPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION WITHIN ALLIANCE, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GREECE AND TURKEY, AS NATO PARTNERS, WOULD FIND PEACEFUL WAY TO SETTLE THEIR CURRENT PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR TZOUNIS SAID THAT HE HAD THOUGHT UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN REACHED AT OTTAWA LOOKING TOWARD CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL PROBLEMS. AT BRUSSELS, HOWEVER, WHERE TZOUNIS HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT, TURKISH PRIME MINISTER HAD PRESENTED PROPOSAL WHICH GREEKS FOUND UNACCEPTABLE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. FIRST, IT SET UP UNWIELDY ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING PM'S, COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES AND GAVE "GLOBAL"

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CHARACTER TO DISCUSSIONS. SECOND, IT FAILED TO DISTINGUISH KEY

SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS FROM MINOR MATTERS, MANY OF WHICH COULD READILY BE SETTLED BY ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES ON BOTH SIDES. THIRD, IT INVOLVED LONG-RANGE APPROACH WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO PRESENT GREEK GOVERNMENT. HE TOOK SOMEWHAT SURPRISING LINE THAT GOG WAS "INTERIM GOVERNMENT" AND THAT CERTAIN ISSUES INCLUDED IN TURKISH PROPOSAL INVOLVED MATTERS ON WHICH GREEK PEOPLE AND/OR GREEK PARLIAMENT MUST ALSO HAVE A VOICE. HE SAID THAT GOG IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WAS NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND "DECLARATION OF INTENT" BUT TURKS HAD BEEN UNWILLING TO ACCEPT SUCH APPROACH AND HAD PRESENTED THEIR OWN PROPOSAL VERY MUCH AS "ULTIMATUM".

3. TZOUNIS PROVIDED VARIOUS EXAMPLES DESIGNED TO SHOW UNREASONABLENESS OF TURKISH POSITION: (A) MAP PUBLISHED BY TURKEY WHICH TREATED CERTAIN GREEK ISLANDS CLOSE TO TURKEY DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER GREEK ISLANDS, THUS IN EFFECT SETTING UP TWO CATEGORIES OF ISLANDS, THOSE WHERE GREECE WOULD HAVE FULL SOVEREIGNTY AND THOSE UNDER "LIMITED SOVEREIGNTY; (B) TURKISH EFFORTS TO CHANGE NATO COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS IN AEGEAN; (C) TURKISH DESIRE TO REOPEN MINORITY PROBLEMS ALREADY SETTLED BY TREATY OF LAUSANNE; AND (D) TURKISH EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE AEGEAN OIL RIGHTS RELYING ON "EQUITY" RATHER THAN RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL LAW. IN SIMILAR VEIN HE ALSO DESCRIBED INCIDENT INVOLVING NEWS BULLETIN PUBLISHED BY TURKISH EMBASSY IN ATHENS.

4. TZOUNIS REFERRED TO HIS OWN LONG SERVICE IN TURKEY AND ATTRIBUTED TURKISH POSITION TO EXTREME NATIONALISM THAT PREVAILED THERE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE MENTIONED LOW LEVEL OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND GENERAL TURKISH DISTRUST OF FOREIGNERS.

5. KENNEDY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUCH FULL EXPOSITION OF GREEK VIEWS AND REPEATED STRONG HOPE PROBLEMS COULD BE SETTLED BY PEACEFUL MEANS. TZOUNIS RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS WHAT GREEKS WANTED TO DO BUT HE REMAINED PESSIMISTIC ABOUT TURKISH INTENTIONS.

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**TAGS:** PFOR, GR, TK, (KENNEDY, DAVID M), (TZOUNIS)  
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